

## PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

REC'D 13 OCT 2004
WIPO
PCT

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT**  
(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference TS 9502 PCT	<b>FOR FURTHER ACTION</b>	See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)
International application No. PCT/EP 03/06456	International filing date (day/month/year) 20.06.2003	Priority date (day/month/year) 04.07.2002
International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC B01J8/06		
Applicant SHELL INTERNATIONALE RESEARCH MAATS... et al.		

<p>1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.</p> <p>2. This REPORT consists of a total of 4 sheets, including this cover sheet.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).</p> <p>These annexes consist of a total of 2 sheets.</p>
<p>3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Basis of the opinion</li> <li>II <input type="checkbox"/> Priority</li> <li>III <input type="checkbox"/> Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability</li> <li>IV <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of unity of invention</li> <li>V <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement</li> <li>VI <input type="checkbox"/> Certain documents cited</li> <li>VII <input type="checkbox"/> Certain defects in the international application</li> <li>VIII <input type="checkbox"/> Certain observations on the international application</li> </ul>

Date of submission of the demand 04.02.2004	Date of completion of this report 11.10.2004
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:  European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465	Authorized Officer Thomasson, P Telephone No. +49 89 2399-8339



INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY  
EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No. PCT/EP 03/06456

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **elements** of the international application (*Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17)*):

**Description, Pages**

1-12 as originally filed

**Claims, Numbers**

1-9 filed with telefax on 01.09.2004

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:

- the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- contained in the international application in written form.
- filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- the description, pages:
- the claims, Nos.:
- the drawings, sheets:

5.  This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)).

*(Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.)*

6. Additional observations, if necessary:

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY  
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. PCT/EP 03/06456

**V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**

**1. Statement**

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	
	No: Claims	1-9
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	
	No: Claims	1-9
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-9
	No: Claims	

**2. Citations and explanations**

**see separate sheet**

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY  
EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET**

International application No. PCT/EP 03/06456

**Re Item V**

**Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**

1. Reference is made to the following documents:

D1: US-A-5 520 890 (LORENTZEN GEIR B ET AL) 28 May 1996 (1996-05-28)  
D2: US-A-2 852 545 (JENNY FRANK J) 16 September 1958 (1958-09-16)  
D3: DE 855 242 C (HERCULES POWDER COMPANY WILMIN) 10 November 1952 (1952-11-10)

2. The present application does not meet the requirement of Article 33(2) PCT for the following reasons:

D1-D3 disclose some apparatus comprising one or more common reactant feed lines, two or more single unit operated reactor sections and one or more common product discharge lines. Furthermore the apparatus are used for the preparation of hydrocarbons from carbon monoxide and hydrogen (see D1-D3: International Search Report). The attention of the applicant is drawn to the fact that each reactor section is comprised in an **individual reactor** (see D1: figure 1, individual tubular reactor (13); D2: figure 3, individual tubular reactors bundle (26); D3: figure 1, individual tubular reactor (11, 16)). Therefore the subject-matter of claims 1 and 9 is not novel.

3. The technical features of claims 2-8 are either known from D1-D3 or are considered to be merely one of several possibilities which the skilled person would select, in accordance with the circumstances, without the exercise of inventive skill. Consequently these claims do not meet the requirement of Article 33(2)-(3) PCT.

**Additional observations**

Contrary to the requirements of Rule 5.1(a)(ii) PCT, the relevant background art disclosed in D1-D3 is not mentioned in the description, nor are these documents identified therein.